

MEZZANOTTE PISTO

DRAWER 21a

STATUES-11


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Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Pietro Mezzara

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Born Feb. 12, 1809

*Elected President of the
United States*

March 1861.

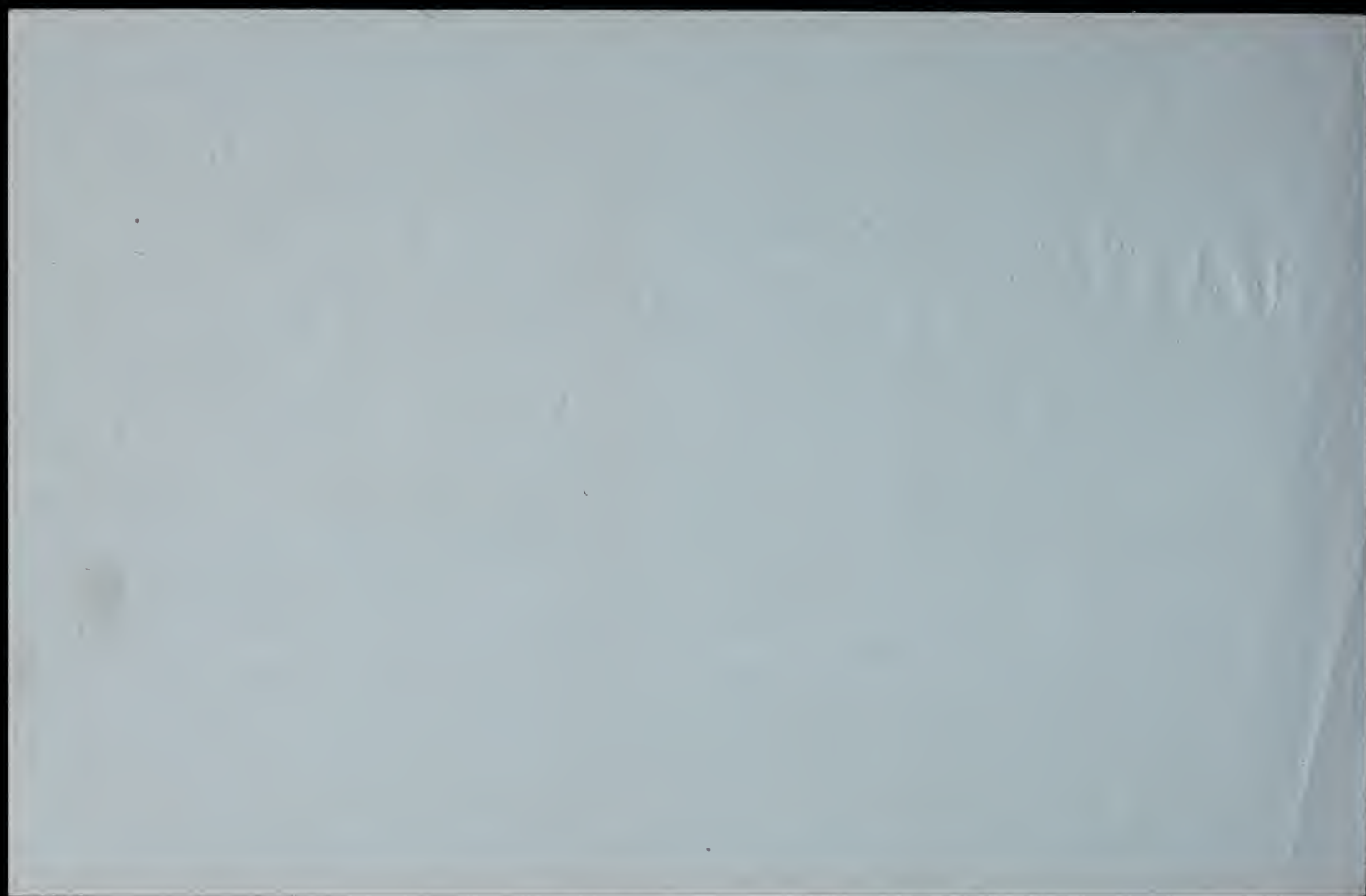
Resigned March 1864.

Died April 1865.



MEZZORA

For many years Lord Flemming's statue of
President Lincoln was thought to be the earliest
study of the President. It stood on a pedestal
about twenty-three feet high in front of the
District of Columbia Court House at Washington.
Later, it was removed but public opinion
insisted, although saying what by the claim that
it was the earliest statue of Lincoln and it replaced
on a ~~new~~ stone base more in keeping with
the type of the surrounding.



But the following station was not even
the first station in Washington as it is evident that
the Elliott station preceded it by some years.
The reason of the erecting the first Union County station
was to San Francisco and this is quite
appropriate as the last word spoken by Lincoln
as he left the White House for Fort Sumter was
San Francisco. He spoke to Cooper from his carriage
and said. "We telegraph you at San Francisco."



The stationery of the Lincoln Memorial League
~~contains a picture of the statue on which~~
~~there~~ carries this information about the statue
"Designed by a California artist. Erected in San Francisco
by San Franciscan Loyalty. Unveiled on the
First Anniversary of President Lincoln's Death.
Destroyed by the Great Fire in 1906. To be replaced
by this League."



It is fortunate that a portrait of the
statue has been preserved, ~~as if possible~~
not only for the ^{preservation of the} figure of Lincoln in the
first bronze study but also for the inscription
which appeared on the ^{stone} base. While the inscription
date is apparently confused with the election date
the wording of the sketch is of interest:

Abraham Lincoln / Jan Feb 12 1809 / Elected
President of the / United States / March 1861 /
Re elected March 1865 / Died April 1865



STATUE OF MR. LINCOLN. A California sculptor named Mezzara has nearly completed a colossal statue of President Lincoln. It is nine feet high, and stands on a pedestal ten feet in height, making a total of nineteen feet. The posture is described in a San Francisco paper as majestic and commanding; the left arm extended in front, and the hand grasping a scroll, supposed to be the Emancipation Proclamation. The right arm hangs at the side, thrown slightly back, as if the subject was speaking. Under the right foot writhes a serpent, and close by it is a broken shackle. An allegorical stump of a tree, from which grow two clasped hands, stands just behind and to the right of the figure.

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SACRAMENTO 9

PIETRO MEZZARA
(Lincoln Statue)

Mr. P. Mezzara, the sculptor of this city, has completed his model of a colossal statue of the late President Lincoln, which is said by those familiar with our late Chief Magistrate to be an excellent likeness. As a work of art it is the finest ever executed in California.

From: San Francisco Alta, July 18, 1865, p.1, col.1
- - - - -

P. Mezzara, sculptor, 421 Jackson street, has just completed the model in clay of a gigantic statue of Abraham Lincoln, for which the plaster casts will be made immediately. The height of the figure, exclusive of the pedestal, is nine feet, although it appears much greater and the proportions are in every particular mathematically correct. The head is as it should be, the most carefully executed of any part of the work, and the likeness is not only striking, but the expression of the features are commanding and wonderfully true to the original. The right hand is partially spread out as if to protect the Constitution, and the emblem of the Union, surmounted by the laurel wreath of victory, which rest beneath them, while the left is stretched out as if to warn away the traitors who threatened them. The right foot rests upon a broken chain and the serpent, emblems of slavery and treason. The statue is intended for exhibition at the Mechanics' Institute Fair this season, and will be one of the most interesting objects in the Pavilion.

From: San Francisco Alta, July 20, 1865, p.1, col.1
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Exhibition of the Mechanics' Institute.
First day.

The Exhibition was opened last evening at eight o'clock. There was a very good display of fireworks, with rockets, bombs and some fixed pieces, in front of the pavilion, after which, at half-past eight the crowd who had filled the streets near by poured into the building, and the statue of Lincoln was unveiled.

After the people had got in and taken their places, the President of the Institute introduced Judge E. D. Sawyer, who made some remarks appropriate to the occasion. An excellent brass band played at intervals throughout the evening and contributed some excellent instrumental music. The statue of Lincoln, larger than life, standing in the centre of the pavilion, under the great dome, elevated about 10 feet above the floor, and placed under a brilliant light, made an imposing appearance. A large chandelier of gas burners, covered by a reflector,



illuminated the floor, but left the upper part of the dome dark and invisible. The Pavilion is decorated with flags and wreaths of foliage. The fountain with its numerous jet and its large basin is surrounded by chairs, where visitors can sit and observe the passing multitude, who are in themselves an interesting sight. The Pavilion is by no means full as yet, but there are many noteworthy things to be seen, and even without the attractions of the music and the crowd, it would be worth a visit. The opening of the Fair was postponed last year for several days after the time advertised, and a rumor had been current that it would be postponed this year, and some exhibitors who have prepared the places for their goods have not sent them in. The attendance was so large last evening, that the Managers feel very sanguine as to the pecuniary as well as the industrial success of the exhibition. The steam engine is at work, whereas last year the Fair had been open several days before the machinery commenced to work. We shall reserve remarks about the remarkable parts of the exhibition for another day ...

From: San Francisco Alta, August 11, 1865, p.1, col.1
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The Committee appointed by the Board of Education, to make arrangements for the unveiling and inauguration of P. Mezzara's Statue of President Lincoln, have decided that the same shall take place today, April 14th, the anniversary of his assassination. The exercises will commence at precisely 10 o'clock, A.M., at Lincoln School Hall. J. W. Winans, Esq., will deliver the inaugural address. His Excellency Governor Low, Hon. Anson, Burlingame, Generals Halleck and McDowell with their respective staffs, Gen. Buck, Hon. John Swett, Rev. Dr. Stone, Dr. Scudder, Mr. Ames, and others, are expected to be present and participate in the exercises. Mrs. Marriner has kindly consented to sing, and Willis's full Band has volunteered its services for the occasion. The public are invited to attend.

From: San Francisco Alta, April 14, 1866, p.1, col.1
- - - - -

The ceremonies attendant on the inauguration of the Lincoln statue, at the Lincoln School House, were witnessed yesterday by a dense assembly of citizens. The statue was unveiled at 10 o'clock, A.M., the boys of the Lincoln School chanting the Lord's Prayer, accompanied by Willis's full Band, who volunteered for the occasion; after which, the large assemblage adjourned to the assembly hall of the Lincoln School.

William G. Badger, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, introduced Rev. Charles L. Ames, who opened the exercises with a very impressive prayer; after which, the inaugural address was delivered by J.W. Winans, Esq., President of the Board of Education. His discourse was most eloquent, and was listened to with marked attention and frequently applauded by the audience.

The next speaker introduced was Rev. Dr. Stone. He made a most stirring and eloquent address, which was heartily applauded by the boys of the Lincoln School, addressing whom, he said no one appreciated more than they the life and character of Abraham Lincoln - that by honesty and straightforwardness of purpose, they might attain like him, the highest position of honor.

The State Superintendent, John Swett, Esq., made brief and appropriate remarks.

Colonel Hawkins, of Tennessee was then introduced. He said he came there like an humble individual, not expecting to be called upon to speak. He made a patriotic address, paid a high compliment to our schools, and said that if the South had had the same advantage the rebellion would never have taken place.

Professor Knowlton read extracts from Lincoln's last inaugural.

Mr. Badger announced that the Rev. Dr. Scudder had promised to be present, but that illness had prevented him, and the Hon. Anson Burlingame had not arrived; the latter was expected by last night's boat, but has failed to come.

The concluding exercise was the singing of "America", accompanied by the band. The exercises throughout were exceedingly interesting and appropriate to the occasion.

From: San Francisco Alta, April 15, 1866, p.1, col.2

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Bis letter file

Mezzana, Pietro





From a Photograph of the
FIRST STATUE
of
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
Erected in 1866

Designed by a California
Artist.

Erected in San Francisco
by San Franciscan
Loyalty.

Unveiled on the First
Anniversary of President
Lincoln's Death.

Destroyed by the Great
Fire in 1906

To be Replaced by this
League.

Members

Peter H. Mass
Chas. E. Broadwell
Wm. E. Estes
John Rainsbury
R. Barker
R. A. Sarle
A. E. Leavitt
Chas. Zissig
Thos. P. Burns
Alex. Goldstein
John A. Britton
H. H. Sherwood
L. L. Solomons
Chas. B. Turrill

Lincoln Monument League

REPRESENTING

Grand Army of the Republic

AND

Lincoln Grammar School Association

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CHAS. E. BROADWELL ALEX. GOLDSTEIN
GEN. CHAS. A. WOODRUFF

Office of Secretary 57 Sanchez Street

San Francisco,

A French bronze statue of Lincoln,
weighing 1,200 pounds, has been erect-
in front of the Lincoln school house,
San Francisco. It was executed by
the late P. Mezzam, a native Californ-
ian sculptor. 1865

Mira-Monte Hotel

127 SOUTH EL MOLINO AVENUE
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

February 27.

1939.

Dear Miss Martin:

I enclose the united efforts of my
cousin, Mabel Mead, and myself to
give some facts of my Uncle Larkin G. Mead
for his life.

I am sorry that I can't furnish any
picture of him, as my only one is in
Boston where I couldn't get at
it till May or June - and my cousin
did not furnish any.

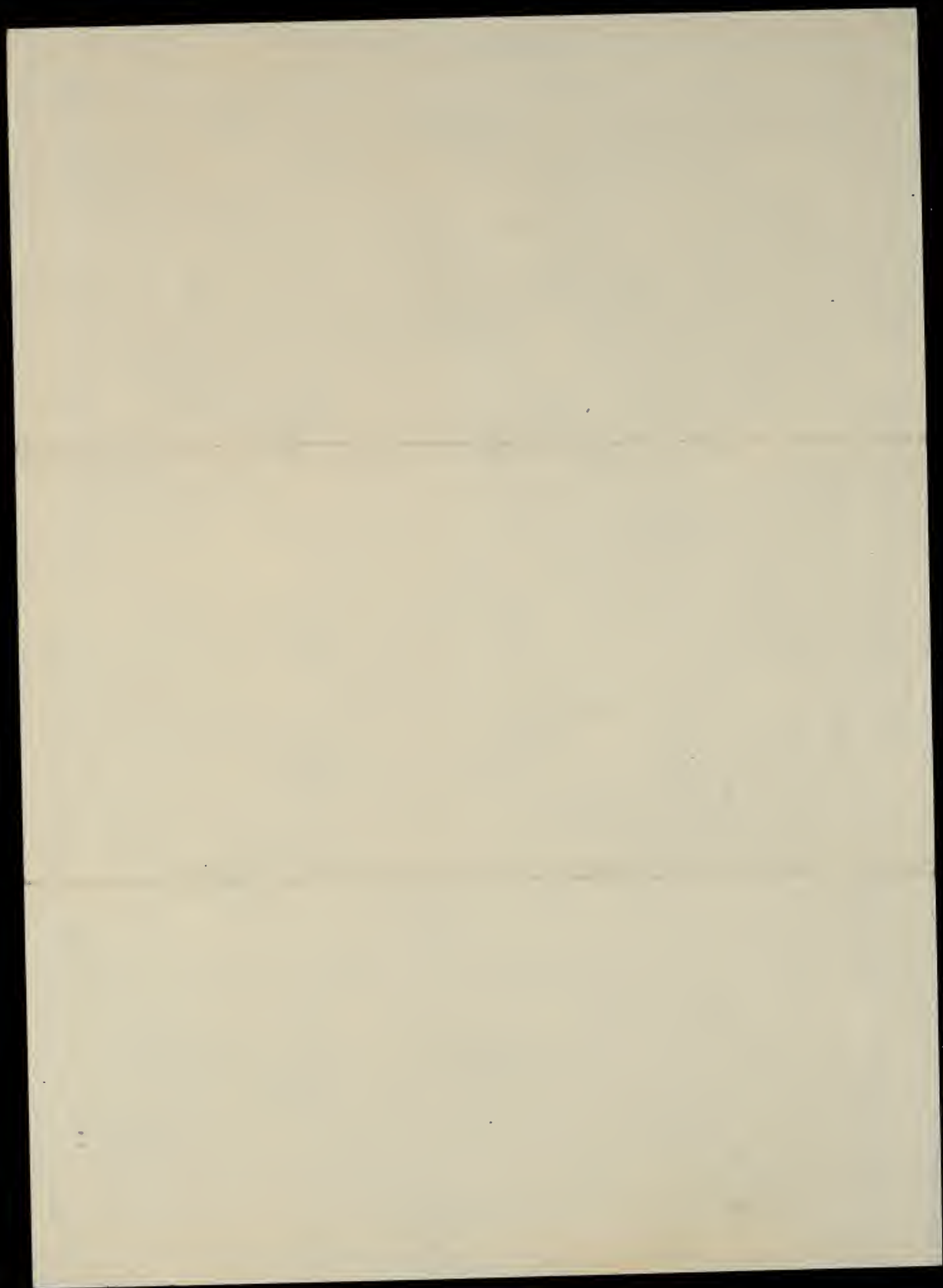
I wish I could do more to help you,
but this is the best I can do.

Yours sincerely,

Mildred Howells

Accepted by

Wm. Dean Howells



Mazzara apparently was moved to sculpt the statue within days after Lincoln's death. His model was ready for exhibition within 3 months of Lincoln's assassination and was shown in the autumn of 1865 at the Mechanics' Fair in San Francisco.

Shortly thereafter, a group of citizens headed by William Chapman Ralston, president of the State Bank of California, purchased the statue from Mazzara and placed it on a pedestal in front of a new grammar school named after Lincoln. The statue was dedicated April 14, 1866.

The Lincoln Grammar School, a four-story brick structure, was one of the finest buildings in San Francisco at that time. It was located at Market and Fifth Street. The school was opened on June 29, 1865.

A third grader at the school by the name of George W. R. King was given the honor of unveiling the statue. He told his school master that he had shaken hands with Lincoln on April 11, 1865, while passing through Washington.

The statue is unique in two respects: (1) Conventional statue garb was discarded for contemporary dress, and (2) Lincoln is shown dressed in the pink of fashion.

F. Lauriston Bullard, the author of the book, "Lincoln in Marble and Bronze," states that the "pose is theatrical—that of a self-conscious man, which Lincoln was not—but the uplifted face is that of a man proud of a great deed." His right hand holds a scroll, symbolizing the Emancipation Proclamation, and his left hand is uplifted in a gesture of grandeur.

Another Lincoln authority, Lucias L. Solomans, stated in a speech in 1936 that "the (right) hand rested upon the curly head of a manumitted slave boy." Photos of the statue do not make this clear.

The statue, made of plaster, stood in front of the Lincoln Grammar School until 1889 when a replica made of French bronze was substituted for it. Then in 1906 the great earthquake that hit San Francisco destroyed the statue.

It is interesting to note that the inscription on the statue contained a mistake in stating Lincoln was elected President in March 1861 and reelected in March 1865. He was inaugurated at those times. The inscription reads:

"Abraham Lincoln, born February 12, 1809, elected President of the United States March 1861, reelected March 1865, died April 1865."

ILLINOIS BAR JOURNAL.

The First Statue Dedicated to the Memory of Abraham Lincoln

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. PAUL H. DOUGLAS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Thursday, February 10, 1966

Mr. DOUGLAS. Mr. President, as we approach the anniversary of the birth of Illinois common man for the ages. I think it appropriate to enter into the record an interesting article which appeared in the February edition of the Illinois Bar Journal concerning the first known statue of this common man whose words and deeds have made such a lasting impression upon mankind that he belongs not to one nation or generation but to all nations and all generations, Abraham Lincoln.

I ask unanimous consent that the article may be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

One hundred years ago this year the first statue dedicated to the memory of Abraham Lincoln was unveiled in San Francisco.

The statue was produced by Pietro Mazzara, who is believed to be of Italian ancestry. He resided in San Francisco for several years according to news items carried in San Francisco papers. He died in September 1883, in Paris, at the age of 60.



Artists in California
1786 - 1940

by

Edan Milton Hughes

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SECOND EDITION 1989

MEYER, Zellick Abraham. (1905-1973). Caricaturist. Born in Canada on May 10, 1905. Meyer was a resident of Los Angeles by 1932. He died in Newport Beach, CA on Sept. 12, 1973. Exhibited: Artists Fiesta, LA, 1931. ¶ CA&A; DR.

MEYERS, Alice V. Painter. Meyers was a resident of San Francisco circa 1903-11. She was a pupil of L. P. Latimer. Exhibited: SFAA, 1903; Mark Hopkins Inst., 1905. ¶ CD.

MEYERS, Rodney K. Landscape painter. Resident of San Jose in 1940. ¶ CD.

MEYERS, William Henry (1815-). Amateur watercolorist. Born in Philadelphia, PA on Feb. 15, 1815. In 1838 Meyers went to sea aboard a trading vessel to the West Indies. Shortly thereafter, he joined the U. S. Navy and was a gunner on the *Cyane* in 1842 when Commodore Jones prematurely seized Monterey. During the War with Mexico he was again in California as a gunner on the *Dale*. Due to ill health, Meyers resigned from the Navy and worked at the naval laboratory in Washington, DC. His painting *The Taking of Monterey on October 20, 1842* now hangs in the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley. His diary, which was illustrated with his watercolor sketches of the conquest of California, is held in the Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, NY. ¶ Taft; *NY Herald*, 9-12-1849 and 3-5-1850; G&W; JVN; YAMP; *American Heritage*, Oct. 1960; Sam; CP; *Monterey Adobe Capital of California*.

MEZZARA, Pietro (1820-1883). Sculptor. Born of Italian ancestry in France in 1820. Mezzara began his career as a carver of cameos. Lured by the discovery of gold in California, he immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1850s. By 1857 he had established a studio in San Francisco where he produced lifelike portrait busts of important political figures and the local nouveau riche. He was a member of the short-lived California Art Union (1865) and a member, director, and officer of the SF Art Ass'n. He served on the committee which founded the School of Design in 1874. Mezzara was active with that school as a member of the board and was in charge of procuring the plaster casts of classical sculpture which were used in the school's sculpting classes. In 1880 he returned to France where he died three years later. Awards: gold medal, Mechanics' Inst. Fair (SF), 1865, 1869, 1871. Works held: Lincoln Grammar School, SF, (statue of Abraham Lincoln); State Capitol, Sacramento, (statues and pediments); Masonic Temple, SF (*Charity*); Mechanics' Pavilion façade (*Romulus and Remus*). ¶ G&W; *American Sculpture*, Donald Stover; *100 Years of Calif. Sculpture*.

MHOON, Ethel. Landscape painter. Born in Fresno, CA. Mrs. Mhoon was a resident of Redondo Beach, CA in the 1930s. ¶ PF.

MIALL, Mrs. Louie M. Artist. Resident of San Francisco in 1901-20. ¶ CD.

MICHAEL, George. Artist. Resident of San Francisco in 1933. ¶ CD.

MICHAEL, James. Watercolorist. Exhibited: SFAA, 1937 (landscapes).

MICHAEL, Marie. Artist. Resident of San Francisco in 1932-34. ¶ CD.

MICHAELITSKE, Mrs. Anton. Painter. Exhibited: SFAA, 1887 (*Chickens*).

MICHELS, Doris Helene. Watercolorist. Resident of San Francisco. Member: Calif. WC Society. Exhibited: GGIE, 1939; Society for Sanity in Art, CPLH, 1940.

MICHELS, Mrs. E. Sahler. Artist. Resident of Pasadena in 1909-16. ¶ CD.

MICHELS, Emily J. (1900-). Sculptor. Born in NYC on Nov. 16, 1900. Michels settled in San Francisco in the early 1920s. She studied at the CSFA and taught at Mission High School after 1924. Member: Pacific AA; Calif. Art Teachers Ass'n. Exhibited: SFAA, 1923. ¶ AAA 1928.

MICHELSEN, Nicholas. Portrait painter. Resident of San Francisco in 1882-95. ¶ CD.

MICHELSON, A. Portrait painter. Exhibited: Calif. State Fair, 1888.

MICHELSON, Eric Gustavus (1884-1964). Illustrator, portrait painter. Born in Boston, MA in 1884. Michelson studied art at the Boston Latin School and the ASL in NYC. He drew scenes of famous criminal cases for the Hearst papers in New York and Boston, and his illustrations appeared on covers of *McCalls* and *Harpers* magazines. During the 1920s, he was a resident of Hollywood and painted many posters of movie stars for Columbia Pictures. He retired from commercial art in the late 1940s to concentrate on portraiture. Michelson died in Queens, NY on March 7, 1964. Member: Calif. Art Club. ¶ AAA 1925; *NY Times*, 3-8-1964 (obit).

MICHENER, Mrs. Ellen. Artist. Resident of Pasadena in 1888. ¶ CD.

MICHETTI, Othello (1895-1981). Watercolorist, commercial artist. Born in Allano, Abruzzi, Italy in 1895. At age ten Michetti immigrated to NYC where he later was a pupil of DuMond and Bridgman at the ASL. At 21 he settled in San Francisco and continued his art education. A world traveler, he also made sketching trips to Europe, Alaska and the Orient. Michetti died in San Diego, CA on Oct. 4, 1981. His subjects include mining camps, farms and landscapes of Northern California. Member: Society of Western Artists. Exhibited: SWA, 1945, 1955. ¶ *The California Style*.

MICHIE, Hector (1900-1980). Artist. Born in California on July 21, 1900. After graduating from the CCAC in 1925, Michie moved to Los Angeles where he worked as art director for Barker Brothers Furniture for 40 years. He died in Loma Linda, CA on Feb. 21, 1980. ¶ DR.

MICKELS, A. Selim. Artist. Resident of Los Angeles in 1925-37. ¶ CD.

MIDDLETON, Arthur H. Sculptor, landscape painter. Resident of Berkeley in the 1930s and 1940s. Exhibited: Bay Region AA, 1935 (*Yosemite*); Oakland Art Gallery, 1936.

MIDDLETON, David. See: Cooper, A. D. M.

MIDDLETON, Harriet Ellen. Painter. Middleton was a resident of Hayward, CA during the 1930s. After graduating from the CCAC in 1939, she headed the art department at Fort Bragg (CA) High School. Exhibited: Bay Region AA, 1940.

MIDDLETON, Mrs. Octavia. Portrait painter. Resident of San Francisco in 1879-83. ¶ CD.

MIDDLETON, Mrs. William A. Artist. Resident of San Jose in 1876. ¶ CD.

MIELKE, Waldo F. (1883-1961). Cartographer. Born in Wisconsin on Jan. 27, 1883. By 1912 Mielke had moved to Fresno, CA. His last 21 years were spent in Santa Cruz, CA; he died there on March 23, 1961. ¶ CD; DR.

MIER, W. J. Portraitist. Exhibited: Calif. State Fair, 1888.

MIERE, Mildred. Painter. Miere moved to San Francisco with her parents in 1913. Locally, she studied with Frank Van Sloun and Spencer Macky with later studies at the ASL in NYC. Although she considered SF her home, she maintained a studio in NYC during the 1920s. ¶ CSL.

MISS, A. R. Painter. Resident of Los Angeles in 1941. ¶ PF.

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